



# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*

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DONALD L. WOLFE, Director

ADDRESS ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:  
P.O. BOX 1460  
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460

September 26, 2006

IN REPLY PLEASE

REFER TO FILE: **C-1**

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**AWARD OF PUBLIC WORKS CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT  
SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS 1, 4, AND 5  
3 VOTES**

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:**

Award and authorize the Director of Public Works, or his designee, to prepare the construction and maintenance services contract in the form previously approved by County Counsel, execute the contract, and establish the effective dates following receipt of approved Faithful Performance and Labor and Material bonds filed by the contractor for the following:

Project ID No. RMD1546037 - Palm Tree Trimming, RD 116/118/416/518, FY 2005-06, vicinities of Industry, Whittier, and Covina (1, 4, and 5), to Trimming Land Company, Inc., in amount of \$157,014.00.

**PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

We are recommending that your Board award this construction and maintenance services contract and authorize the Director of Public Works, or his designee, to execute the contract and establish the effective contract dates following receipt of approved bonds and insurance filed by the contractor.

The enclosure for this project includes the project description, the call for bids and bid opening date, a tabulation of bids, and financial information. The certified record of receipt of bids and the original bid proposals are also enclosed.

The recommended construction contract is necessary to execute Board-directed and approved Public Works projects in support of operational missions. Your Board's approval of the recommended contract award and our subsequent execution of the contract will ensure the timely completion of the project.

### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

The award of this construction contract is consistent with the County Strategic Plan Goal of Service Excellence since the completion of this contract will provide improved infrastructure to better serve the public.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

The enclosure includes the amount of the recommended contract as compared with the engineer's estimate and the other bids received.

This project is included in the 2006-07 Department of Public Works Budget. The enclosure includes more detailed fiscal and financial information.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

The recommended contract award is to the lowest responsible bidder in accordance with the California Public Contract Code and your Board's directives.

On October 27, 1981, your Board adopted a program for the use of small Minority and Women-owned Businesses (MWBs) on Federal- and State-funded highway construction contracts. Companies meeting these requirements are certified by the State as Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs). An overall goal for subcontracting portions of the work to DBEs is established for each project. Contracts are recommended for award to the lowest responsible bidder who meets the goal or documents a good faith effort to do so in conformance with the program.

We have also developed an outreach program to encourage all qualified contractors to participate in the bidding and contracting process on our projects. Under this program, we place notices of upcoming bids in local and minority newspapers throughout the County. These notices indicate that copies of plans and specifications are available at specified libraries and the Public Works Headquarters building. This allows interested contractors to view the plans and specifications at convenient locations. We also provide telephone numbers (including one for Spanish-speaking contractors) to obtain further information on bidding and subcontracting opportunities.

To further increase contractor awareness of contracting opportunities with Public Works, this project was listed on the County website for upcoming bids.

The State Labor Code requires contractors to pay prevailing wage rates to all persons employed on public works construction contracts. These rates are determined by the Department of Industrial Relations and include contributions for fringe benefits such as vacations, pension funds, training, and health plans for each employee.

As required by your Board, language has been incorporated into the project specifications stating that the contractor shall notify its employees, and shall require each subcontractor to notify its employees, that they may be eligible for the Federal Earned Income Credit under the Federal income tax laws.

This contract will be in the form previously approved by County Counsel. We will also review and approve the faithful performance and payment bonds filed by the contractor.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION**

This project was found to be categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act at the time your Board called for bids. The specifics of these findings are included in the enclosure for this project.

#### **CONTRACTING PROCESS**

The contract was solicited on an open competitive basis in accordance with the provisions of the Public Contract Code.

The project specifications contain provisions requiring the contractor to report solicitations of improper consideration by County employees and allowing the County to terminate the contract if it is found that the contractor offered or gave improper consideration to County employees.

Public Works has confirmed that the contractor is in compliance with the County's Child Support Compliance Program and the requirements of the Contractor Employee Jury Service Program. In addition, the contract will include language requiring compliance with the Newborn Abandonment Law (Safely Surrendered Baby Law).

The project specifications also contain a provision that, should the contractor require additional or replacement personnel to fill employment openings, consideration shall be given to hiring qualified participants in the County's Greater Avenues for Independence or General Relief Opportunities for Work Programs.

To ensure that the contracts are awarded to responsible contractors with satisfactory performance histories, bidders are required to report violations of the False Claims Act violations, labor law/payroll violations, debarments, their civil litigation history, and information regarding prior criminal convictions. The information reported by the contractor was considered before making this recommendation to approve execution of the contract.

#### **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

This construction and maintenance services contract will result in improved public works infrastructure in the communities where the work is scheduled. Where appropriate, local residents and businesses will be informed that traffic and local access may be mildly disrupted during the construction. The proposed schedule for construction is included in the enclosure for this project.

#### **CONCLUSION**

Please return one adopted copy of this letter to Public Works.

Respectfully submitted,

DONALD L. WOLFE  
Director of Public Works

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Enc.

cc: Chief Administrative Office  
County Counsel  
Office of Affirmative Action Compliance

AWARD OF CONTRACT  
September 26, 2006

PROJECT ID NO. RMD1546037, PALM TREE TRIMMING, RD 116/118/416/518,  
FY 2005-06 (in the vicinities of Industry, Whittier, and Covina),  
Supervisory Districts 1, 4, and 5

TYPE OF WORK: Trimming and removal of parkway trees.

CALL FOR BIDS DATE: August 8, 2006 (Agenda No. 35)

BID OPENING DATE: September 7, 2006

BID SUMMARY:

Low	*Trimming Land Company, Inc., a corporation 10513 Dolores Avenue South Gate, California 90280 (323) 569-4498	\$157,014.00
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2	West Coast Arborists, Inc.	\$234,465.00
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\*MWBE

FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Amount of estimate	\$131,245.00
Amount of recommended contract	\$157,014.00
Amount of recommended contract above estimate	\$ 25,769.00

The amount of the recommended contract is 20 percent above the estimate, which was based on previous contract items for similar items of work. However, the recent increase in fuel has resulted in higher costs to the contractor and consequently resulted in higher bids. We believe that re-advertising the project will not result in a more favorable bid; therefore, we recommend that this project be awarded to the low bidder.

This project is included in the Fiscal Year 2006-07 Road Fund Budget.

MINORITY/WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE DATA:

Trimming Land Company, Inc., an MBE, has no MWBE subcontractors/suppliers under this contract.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

This project is categorically exempt pursuant to Class 1, Subsection (j), of the revised County Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines adopted by your Board on November 17, 1987.

CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE:

The contract specifications require the work to be completed in 40 working days. It is estimated that the work will start in October and be completed in December 2006.

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